

HINFormation

A Newsletter of the School of Health Information Science
University of Victoria

September 2004

Message from the Director....

Welcome to the start of the 2004-05 academic year. As the new Director I look forward to spending a rewarding and



exciting year with you. The HINF program is a challenging one in each of its years, a challenge that can only be met successfully with dedication and hard work on your part and ours. So far I have had the pleasure of meeting the newly admitted students as well as some of our current students and alumni at our annual student mixer earlier this month and I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible as the year progresses.

Life is all about change, and that is certainly true this year in HINF. In addition to my appointment as Director, we welcome *Benjamin Jung* as a new Assistant Professor. We are launching a distributed stream MSc program in January 2005 and we are revamping our undergraduate curriculum. I would like to thank all those who took the time to send their comments on the proposed changes.

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I would also like to thank *Francis Lau*, the School's previous director, who has put a great deal of effort into the creation of the innovative distributed MSc program in Health Information Science, which is the only one of its kind in Canada. I would like to commend *Denis Protti* for his ongoing commitment, time and effort dedicated to the undergraduate curriculum review. We are still discussing the final details, but we will have the new program on our web site as soon as the HSD Curriculum Committee and Senate approve the changes. Details about the changes will be in the next newsletter.

On a more personal note, I am excited to be living in Victoria and working at UVic. I feel very fortunate to be directing the School of Health Information Science. I have worked in the area of health informatics for a number of years and have always been impressed by the quality of the HINF program at the University of Victoria, its faculty and staff and its graduates. I have also been aware of the national and international reputation the program has attained. It is truly a unique and cutting edge program in Canada, and even more so since the program has pioneered (over the past twenty years) an interdisciplinary approach to health information science that is only now beginning to be developed internationally. Also, I must add that across Canada, the reputation of the co-op students is extremely high, with many companies and hospitals hoping to employ our co-op students. From a more personal side, I have valued my interactions with colleagues and graduate students from the School over the past ten years, particularly as I worked with them on Canada-wide collaborative projects. Now I also look forward to working with the faculty and students

whom I have not previously had the opportunity of interacting with prior to my move from Toronto to Victoria this past summer.

Prior to coming to the University of Victoria I have worked in a variety of capacities in conducting research, teaching and administration of interdisciplinary academic programs. I feel that I am privileged to now direct the program at the University of Victoria, as it is one of the most unique and valuable programs in the area of health information science. I hope that you can share our enthusiasm for health information science and that you have both a productive and enjoyable year!

Andre Kushniruk

Honorary Degree

On June 4, 2004, *Dr. Morris F. Colleen* honoured the University by accepting an honorary Doctor of Science degree, conferred upon him for his many pioneering accomplishments in health informatics.



Before the ceremony, Dr. Colleen made himself available to students of Health Information Science in a much appreciated question and answer session.

The following is the speech with which *Dr. Reginald Michell* introduced Dr. Colleen to the convocation as University Orator.

“Mister Chancellor, I have the honour to introduce Morris Collen, an extraordinary scientist.

“Although often placed amongst the founding fathers of medical informatics, he’s actually had a most profound effect on the reshaping of basic health care in the United States.

“Some ninety years ago, either the stars were aligned just right or, Morris’s mother had premonitions, because he was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on 11-12-13 - an intriguing birth date, that - - who knows-- possibly set the foundation for his future with numbers.

“Morris went on to study science obtaining his bachelor’s of electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1934. He planned to go to graduate school and earn a PhD in organic electrochemistry; however, he was dating a Canadian nurse from Winnipeg at the time by the name of *Frances Bobby Diner*. For some strange reason, she persuaded him to go to medical school, instead. He did that, then married her in 1937 and graduated with his MD in 1939.

“After an internship in Chicago, and a hospital residency in Los Angeles, he moved to Oakland in 1942 to become Chief of Medicine at Kaiser Permanente, a medical care organization, of which, some six decades later, he is Director Emeritus.

“In the 1930’s, a surgeon, *Dr. Sidney Garfield*, established a novel medical practice for industrial workers at remote mega project sites and, perhaps more importantly created a way to cover health care: a pre-payment plan, funded by a prominent industrialist of the time, *Henry Kaiser*.

Garfield selected Morris Collen to join him in his practice, which by then had become part of the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Group. “permanente,” by the way, comes from a Spanish term meaning ever-flowing. Could we use that term in BC, I wonder?

“Dr. Collen soon rose to be Chief Physician in San Francisco and would serve 24 consecutive years as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Permanente Medical Group. Drs. Garfield, Cutting, and Collen created and developed a unique collaborative plan that integrated medicine and financial management.

“Perhaps Dr. Collen’s early training in electrical engineering gave him the insight to recognize that the computer would become as important to medicine as the stethoscope had been in the past. He used computers to track his members’ health status, screening more than a million patients, sick and healthy, despite the immaturity of the technology in the 50’s and 60’s, and so provided the foundation for hospital information systems.

“By the time of his ‘official retirement’ in 1983, his medical methods research division had 400 employees and 1200 articles in the medical literature. Dr. Collen himself now has almost 200 publications, as well as five books, and has held appointments at important universities, including Johns Hopkins and Stanford.

“He has been, or still is, a member of many panels: to the President, to the United States Congress, to the military, to NASA, and many others just to mention a few. He has been awarded so many honors, that I will select just one to tell you about, and that is “The Morris F Collen Award of Excellence”.

“Many of us aspire to win at least one award in our lifetime. Few get to have an award named after us. In 1993, the American Medical Informatics Association and the American College of Medical Informatics established the Morris F Collen Award to be presented to individuals whose personal commitment and dedication have made a lasting impression on the field of medical informatics and whose work best exemplifies the teachings and practices of Dr. Collen, that awards first recipient.

“Mister Chancellor, Morris Collen is a rare combination of scientist, humanist, politician and family man, proud that his four children are all in the medical related professions, and it is with great pleasure that I present him for the degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa.”

Students

We would like to welcome the students joining us this September: *Kira Allingham, Yuri Beskrovny, Munroop Chahal, Xueling Chen, Michael Cooperrider, Landon Cunningham, Gagan Dhaliwal, Cailin Eaton, Paul Girn, Tielo Hrasky, Jin Huang, Amr Kabesh, Kyung Kim, Kenneth Kowalsky, Crystal Kuan, Annie Lam, Yanyan Li, Annie Liu, Xueying Liu, Eva Liu, Robyn Mackenzie, Vanessa Magiera, King-Sau Mak, Lioudmila Miaous, Steven Murenbeeld, Krista Nugent, Ariane Phillips, Heather Taylor, Richard Theng, Nathaniel Wai, Zheng Wang, Casey Whitefield, Yang Xiao, William Yang, Kailyn Young, Eric Yu, Hao Zhang, Bonnie Zhou, and Coco Zhu,*



The June convocation ceremony saw us bid goodbye to: *Dave Abercrombie, Adam Beaton, Manmeet Bhalla, Michael Cleghorn, Allison Dare, Nancy Gill, Robyn Hope, Bartosz Jedynek, Anisha Kara, Yuko Kawano, Hyeong-Jin Kim, Todd Kinnee, Decima Kunz, Robert Landry, Min Li, Stephen Rickley, Ben Seaman, Joanne Sefton, Marc Tallentire, Janet Tam, Tracey Wong, Vania Yuen, and Chi Zheng.* Congratulations all!

Kelowna will never be the same now that *Todd Kinnee* and *Rob Landry* both have positions at the Interior Health Authority. Meanwhile, *Mike Cleghorn* has moved to Toronto where he has joined the Courtyard Group.

Scholarships

Once again our students did very well in the scholarship arena. Congratulations to *Lindsay Forland* "The President's Scholarship" (\$560); *Shannon Gibson* "UVIC Excellence Scholarships Renewal" (\$2500) and the "ICBC Scholarship in Health Information Science" (\$5000); *Janine Greenwell* "UVIC Excellence Scholarships Renewal" (\$3500); *Fraser Hacking* "Michael Miller Scholarship" (\$2600); *Shaina Hood* "Mrs. Annie Greskiw Scholarship in Health Information Science" (\$1550) and "The President's Scholarship" (\$950); *Xianting Hu* "The President's Scholarship for Part-Time Undergraduate Students" (\$724); *Rosanne Lewis* "The President's Scholarship" (\$1000) and the University of Victoria Faculty Scholarship (\$500); *Jamila Madhani* "Edythe Hembroff-Schleicher Scholarships" (\$2000); *Megan Stepushyn* "Mrs. Annie Greskiw Scholarship in Health Information Science" (\$1550); and *Kailyn Young* "University of Victoria Entrance Scholarships" (\$2000).

Faculty

Medinfo 2004 Great Success

Medinfo, the triennial world congress of medical informatics is always worth attending. This year's conference in San Francisco was no exception. A highly selected range of papers, posters, panels, workshops, tutorials, etc., provides a high quality back drop for meeting the best of the world in the field of health informatics, and for renewing cherished acquaintances and making new ones.

As always, the faculty of the School was prominently represented: *Denis Protti* conducted a panel and presented a paper, *Jochen Moehr* conducted a business meeting for the IMIA Working group 'Data Protection in Health Information Systems', attended a Scientific Program Committee session for the same group, attended

the General Assembly of IMIA and chaired a paper session.

But the greatest success was certainly scored by *Dr. Andre Kushniruk*, the School's new Director: André won the Silver Medal for best paper of Medinfo! His paper "The Relationship of Usability to Medical Error: An Evaluation of Usability Errors Associated with Usability Problems in the Use of a Handheld Application for Prescribing Medications" was assessed as 2nd best paper of the entire conference, to which over 1200 papers had been submitted. And Dr. Kushniruk has to be further congratulated to the fact that his newly wed wife *Elizabeth Borycki* is among his four co-authors. Heartfelt congratulations, André and Elizabeth!

Jochen Moehr

Congratulations to Adjunct Associate Professor, *Dr. Pat Coward*, on her recent appointment as Director of Health Services and Policy Research at the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research in Vancouver.

When one lives in one town all of their life, it is all one long week.

The last 12 months have truly been more than just one long week. In fact, so many changes have taken place that I sometimes wake up in the middle of the night and need a couple of seconds to reflect and analyze the present situation! After graduating in Computer Science and Theoretical Medicine from Technische Universität München (Germany) in 1997, I joined the Centre for Health Informatics at Trinity College Dublin (Ireland). Apart from my research and terrific colleagues, I enjoyed the beer and the 'craic' (not to be mixed up with cocaine!), which is second to none.



Pleasant things you should do twice and my Irish wife *Sonya* and I decided to get married in Germany as well as in Ireland in the summer of 2004. Both ceremonies have been wonderful and unforgettable events, painful in moments as we realised that it would be a long time until we will see some of our relatives again.

The arrival of our first child *Aaron Patrick Josef* in May 2004 was

another terrific change in our life. We were blessed with a healthy and strong son, who teaches us on a daily basis to enjoy the simple things in life. We still can't stop telling everybody that he just discovered to turn onto his belly! But to be honest, we wishfully await the time that he can roll back himself instead of just screaming for help...



Our small family is now slowly settling into the new environment and waiting for our belongings to arrive by ship and truck from Europe.

Thanks to my fantastic colleagues at the School of Health Information Science, we no longer have to sleep on deflating air mattresses and sit on the ground for breakfast! It was truly comical, when *Sonya* and I got up in

the middle of the night, she feeding Aaron and I topping up the air in the air mattress! However, we only have two chairs at the moment and have to ask any guests to BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair).

Sonya and I are most grateful for the warm welcome that we received since we arrived. It makes such a big difference when moving to a new city, country and continent!

I am looking forward to working with you all. Please knock on the door and say hello when you are passing by my office!

Benjamin Jung

Student Union

The HINF Student Union is about fun, action, and collaboration. Formerly known as the HINF Course Union, we are a volunteer group of HINF students who organize events provide input to the administration on issues involving students, and work together to build a cohesive, enjoyable environment for students within the program.

The 2004/2005 HINF Student Union looks promising with several students energized to put their ideas into action. Plans for a BBQ, pub crawl, HINF clothing sales and more are already in the works. This year we are launching a new web site at <http://www.hinf.com> that will serve as the hub for a variety of HINF Student Union information such as:

- Event listings and details
- Help and tips for HINF courses
- Frequently Asked Questions and Forms
- Photo gallery of HINF events
- Student discussion forum including bulletin boards to post items for sale, tips on co-op accommodation, and more!

Anyone is welcome to participate in the HINF Student Union. It is a great way to meet other students in a non-academic setting and get to know those in other cohorts. This year, we are also trying out a new organization format. Though everyone in the HINF Student Union works co-operatively as a team, each person is assigned a specific role within the team. The current members (and roles) are:

Lindsay Forland (Chair)
Cathy Pagett (Vice-Chair)
Reed Scott (Treasurer)
Greg Botten and *Marc Huot* (Web Administrators)
Gavin D'Mello, *Ken McKnight*,
Ramina Dhillon (Event Co-ordinators)
Shannon Gibson (Co-op Representative)
Tielo Hrasky, *Stephanie Potvin* (Members-at-large)
4th year Representative (vacant)
2nd year Representative (open)
1st year Representative (open)

We are still actively recruiting for students from other cohorts to join the course union, particularly first and second year HINF students. If you are interested in becoming part of the HINF Student Union or have any other questions, feel free to contact Lindsay Forland at lindsayf@uvic.ca or Cathy Pagett at cathy@uvic.ca.

Cheers to a great year ahead!

Alumni

Surrounded by close friends and family, *Christine Baynton* ('03) married *Richard Underwood III* at the Cordova Bay Golf Course on May 1. The garden ceremony was



followed by an intimate reception. The couple is residing in Vancouver, where Christine works for the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

Where they are now....

Jeremy Smith ('02) has been promoted to CIO of the Calgary Health Region.

Min Li ('04) is now with the BC Centre for Disease Control in Vancouver as a Surveillance Analyst.

Dawn Atkinson ('01) has moved back home to Whitehorse where she is working as a Clinical Software Analyst at the Whitehorse General Hospital (the only one in town).

Toby Walrod ('97) is in Japan on a one year teaching contract with JET, the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme.

I'm excited to tell you that I made it through the Dental Admission Exam and interviews... and have been accepted into the Dentistry Faculty at UBC for this Fall 2004! Working in Calgary for the past two years with the Electronic Health Record Project was an amazing experience. It was very rewarding to implement the skills we learned in HINF, and be able to contribute to enhancing quality health care across Canada. My Health Informatics background will definitely be an invaluable asset for me in my future practice. I'm looking forward to being back on the West Coast to begin this new endeavor (4 more years of school - yikes!), and reuniting with any other HINFers who are working in Vancouver. My e-mail address is: stalsout@hotmail.com

Crystal Janicki ('02)



On June 6th 2004 *Bobbi and John* ('01) *Bartle-Clar* became proud parents to *Bree Anne Marie*. Bree Anne was 8lb 1 oz at birth and 57cm long. At 3 months she is beginning to develop quite some character and has a set of lungs to equal her father's. Dad says, "She is by far the cutest baby in the world." *Bobbi and John* are totally enthralled by their new adventures in parenting.

Teekay Shipping

There must be something in the air at Teekay Shipping. After being together for 10 years, *Simon Ng*, ('03) married his girlfriend, *Theresa Lee*, on July 18. Later that month, *Serena Birk* ('02) said "I do" to her fiancé *Nav (Kevin) Samra* on July 31 in Victoria.

Graduate Students

Mowafa Househ has had his paper on health care team collaborative technology accepted for publication in the *Journal of Medical Systems*.

Patricia Fortin and *Neelam Sandhu* each received \$13,500.MSc Fellowships.

The school was well represented at the Information Technology in Health Care: Socio-Technical Approaches Conference in Portland, Oregon from September 13-14, 2004. *Dr. Francis Lau*, *Professor Denis Protti* and PhD candidates *Carolyn Green* and *Craig Kuziemy* all attended. Denis, Carolyn and Craig presented research papers on their work while Francis took part in a plenary panel on health informatics.

Miscellaneous

Class list servs are now automatically generated from the class lists on ISIS using UVic netlink IDs only. The other list servs (HINFCU, HINF-1 and HINFINFO) will all be moving to a new system shortly.

University Plans Major Information Systems Upgrade

Project Nova will be replacing all the aging and technology dated systems with an integrated, university-wide, Web-accessible suite of applications.

"This new suite will provide users convenient access to university e-services and up-to-date information for UVic students, faculty, staff and other users on a 24-hour basis, no matter where they are or what technology they choose to use" says *Jack Falk*, Vice President Finance and Operations.

Project Nova will benefit everyone on campus, replacing software applications, for student records, financial services, human resources and payroll, alumni and donor information and facilities management.

The university plans to release a request for proposals for Project Nova this fall.

Visitors

I am a native Victorian and a graduate of UVic (B.A. 1965). I recently retired from Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre where I was a senior executive for fifteen years, including the last five years as Chief Operating Officer. I am also an academic health economist and have been a member of the Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba since 1974. My scholarly interests and activities broadly include health-care financing, health policy and healthcare administration. I am especially intrigued by the continuing Canadian debate over the appropriate public/private mix of responsibilities for the organization, delivery and financing of health. During my current research/study leave at UVic, I will be "internationalizing" my understanding of that debate by studying the private/public mix of sectoral responsibilities in Catalonia, an "autonomous community" in northeastern Spain. The Catalan system specifically features a type of "strategic purchasing" involving formal contracts between the public funder (CATSALUT) and various providers (hospitals, long-term care facilities, and primary care organizations). A primary objective of my project will be to analyze and evaluate these contracts and related managerial methods to determine their potential for beneficial application in our Canadian provincial health care systems. I am delighted to be affiliated with the School of Health Information Science and look forward to my meetings with staff and students over the coming months. I am located in HSD A220 and can be reached at 472-5432 and jhorne@uvic.ca.

John Horne

We also welcome back *Tafadzwa Mupfawa*. Tafadzwa was here November 1999 – May 2000. She is now Programs Coordinator for a small rural community based non-profit organization in Zimbabwe, called the Dzidzai Foundation Trust (DFT). She is part of a team tasked to undertake four educational initiatives in the Honde Valley, building on the successful model of Kenya AIDS Intervention/Prevention Project Group in Kenya.

The model includes:

1. General education access for AIDS orphans, girls and children in poverty;
2. Arts as an educational tool for HIV/AIDS prevention;
3. Nutritional information and improvements for people living with or having HIV;
4. ICT use as an educational and empowerment tool, and to enhance the cost effectiveness, efficiency and quality of all programming.

HINF Co-op news

We welcome *Dr. Benjamin Jung* as the Coop Faculty Representative.

Welcome back to our students who were out on work terms in the summer.

They had some great experiences that they'll share with us during the student Coop presentations that will take place Monday Sept. 27 and Wednesday Sept.29 in HSD A300 4:00 - 6:30. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Currently, we have 21 students on Fall work terms in Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto.

Thirty-five keen students will start the job search shortly for the Spring 2005 work term.

Dave Hutchinson

How to reach us

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A complete listing of the faculty including the adjuncts, staff and graduate students, can be found at <http://hinf.uvic.ca/people/dir.htm>.

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